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Economic and Social Council

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Commission on the Status of Women
Sixtieth session
14-24 March 2016
Agenda item 3 (a) (i)
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: priority theme: women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development

Key strategies for gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Chair's summary

1. On 16 March 2016, the Commission on the Status of Women held a panel discussion on the priority theme of the sixtieth session of the Commission "Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development", on the topic of key strategies for gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Vice-Chair of the Commission, Šejla Đurbuzović, moderated the discussion. The panellists were: the Director for Social Development of the National Planning Department, Alejandra Corchuelo (Colombia); the Andrew Glyn Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, James Heintz (United States of America); Government Statistician and Chief Executive of the Statistical Service, Philomena Efua Nyarko (Ghana); a senior adviser at the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, Anita Nayar (India); and the Principal Gender Adviser at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Sally Moyle (Australia).

2. Participants identified key strategies for gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The discussion highlighted examples of good practices, lessons learned and opportunities for the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the context of the 2030 Agenda. Representatives from 11 Member States and from three civil society organizations made interventions and posed questions to the panellists.

3. Speakers noted that implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Beijing Platform for Action needed to be aligned in order for

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coherent and accelerated change to be achieved in the lives of women and girls. It was urgent to recognize the multiple and intersecting inequalities faced by women and the need to achieve substantive equality, including equality of outcomes and the equal enjoyment of human rights. Participants noted that gender perspectives must be integrated in the implementation of the entire 2030 Agenda, the universality of which they also highlighted.

Gender-responsive national institutional arrangements and policy frameworks

4. Governments would need strong national gender equality machineries and institutional arrangements to ensure gender mainstreaming in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Participants emphasized that multi-stakeholder engagement was critical for effective, inclusive and accountable policies. Participants recognized that strong gender equality ministries could convene other ministries, including those responsible for planning and finance, and promote partnerships. They encouraged the establishment of inter-agency mechanisms and the appointment of gender focal points for a coordinated institutional approach to the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

5. Participants identified several challenges to attaining such conducive conditions, including funding constraints, a lack of sufficient policy analysis and evaluation and the limited exchange of good practices at the global level.

Financing gender equality and macroeconomic policy frameworks

6. Participants emphasized that political will and financial resources were critical for a gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Such investment, together with macroeconomic policies would enable that approach to implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Participants discussed the significance of domestic resource mobilization, official development assistance and private sector support. Domestic resource mobilization could include progressive taxation, the more efficient collection of taxes, including new taxes on undertaxed financial sector transactions and natural resource exports, the analysis of budgets for gender-specific impacts and the reprioritization of expenditures towards realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women.

7. Women's labour force participation was essential for economic growth and shared prosperity and should be supported by the broader provision of childcare and social protection. Women were overrepresented in low-paid, informal, unprotected, precarious and unpaid labour, which presented barriers to their empowerment.

8. Participants stressed that economic sustainability was intrinsically linked with recognizing, reducing and redistributing unpaid care work, which disproportionately burdened women and girls. Unpaid care work was not included in national measurements, such as gross domestic product, although it contributed a significant amount to GDP, and was usually not considered in economic policy.

9. Examples of measures to reduce the gender pay gap included oversight mechanisms, reward systems, collective bargaining processes, individual complaints and reporting to human rights bodies. One strategy required employers with over 100 employees to report on pay equity.

10. Participants recognized the importance of women's rights groups and trade unions in supporting women's access to decent work and social protection, including such aspects as childcare, health care, the minimum wage and pensions. Participants acknowledged that women's right to organize had to be protected.

Sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics: follow-up and review

11. Participants expressed their commitment to enhancing the collection, analysis and dissemination of sex-disaggregated data, gender statistics and gender-responsive indicators. At the same time, participants acknowledged that the follow-up and review of the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development presented challenges from a data perspective.

12. Participants observed that statistical institutions and systems had to be modernized and technical capacities improved so as to better inform national, regional and global decision-making and action. This would require substantial financial commitments and resource mobilization.

13. Each country would need to adapt and use, as relevant to the national context, data collection and statistical methods, such as surveys, interviews or big data. Similarly, each country would need to build a national framework or system to undertake follow-up and review processes. Participants highlighted the complementary nature of qualitative and quantitative data; the former often revealed theretofore hidden facets of the experiences, needs and interests of women and girls.

Gender equality and environmental sustainability

14. The integration of environmental, social and economic sustainability was necessary to "leave no one behind". In addition to gender-responsive implementation of the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the example of the three Sustainable Development Goals related to food security, sustainable energy and climate change was highlighted and ongoing strategies to implement those goals from a gender equality perspective were presented. There was a call for the establishment of implementation mechanisms that would advance feminist policies while holding public and private finance institutions accountable, including in the areas of climate finance and financing for development.

15. Some participants drew attention to global structural obstacles, such as financial, trade and investment rules, to achieving the goals outlined above. One strategy proposed to address such obstacles was building regional solidarity across ministries and across social movements. It was critical for women's movements to seek and build alliances with progressive and feminist policymakers so as to address the structural obstacles that created and maintained gender and other inequalities. Some speakers identified that feminist policies needed to be grounded in regional realities in order for progress to be made towards gender equality and the empowerment of women, while pursuing environmental and economic sustainability. Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in tandem with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development required national and regional development institutions to rebuild regional solidarity for gender, environmental and economic justice.

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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: priority theme: women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development

Participation and partnerships for gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Chair's summary

1. At its 9th meeting, on 17 March 2016, the Commission on the Status of Women held a panel discussion on the priority theme of the sixtieth session of the Commission, "Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development", with a focus on participation and partnerships for gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Vice-Chair of the Commission, Jun Saito (Japan), moderated the discussion. The panellists were: Olfa Soukri Cherif (Tunisia), Member of Parliament; Angela Brown Burke (Jamaica), Mayor of Kingston; Emma Kaliya (Malawi), Chair of the African Women's Development and Communications Network; Michaela Bergman, Chief Counsellor for Social Issues, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; and Rima Khalaf, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

2. Participants discussed participation and partnerships for gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda, highlighting efforts by diverse stakeholders and suggesting innovative approaches. They provided examples of interventions and lessons learned during the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and identified partnership and participation opportunities for the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the context of the Agenda. Representatives of 18 Member States and five civil society organizations made statements and posed questions to the panellists.

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Taking stock of existing arrangements for participation and partnerships

3. Participants noted a need for environments conducive to participation by, and partnerships among, stakeholders, including civil society, local and municipal governments, parliamentarians and multilateral development banks. More inclusive policy dialogue and decision-making had amplified the voices of women in development processes, although the rates of women's participation and leadership in both the public and private sectors remained low. In particular, limited financing and shrinking space for civil society organizations were hampering their capacity to complement the public authorities in delivering gender-responsive services.

4. Participants acknowledged that progress had been made in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, especially through strengthened and improved gender-responsiveness with regard to legal and policy frameworks. Further legal and policy reforms were needed to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment and secure women's voice, agency and participation in the 2030 Agenda and ensure that they benefited from it.

Contextual issues

5. Partnerships among stakeholders were found not to be consistently on a level of equality, owing to existing power imbalances. For development to reach the most marginalized and vulnerable in society, including indigenous women and sexual minorities, partnerships should be based on international human rights norms and standards. Adherence to international norms and standards was also important when dealing with the harmful impacts on women and girls associated with some cultural or religious practices.

6. Some participants noted the current limited role and responsibility of the private sector in advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women, while others accorded particular importance to corporate social responsibility measures, including those associated with the United Nations Global Compact, when promoting public-private partnerships. Strong civil society support was seen as important when advocating the commitment of private sector companies to, for example, equal pay for equal work and work of equal value. Participants suggested including gender equality provisions in the legal frameworks for public-private partnerships, similar to environmental and social safeguards already in place, to ensure that such partnerships advanced rather than inhibited gender equality and women's empowerment.

7. Participants suggested that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda should also respond to conflict situations and their gender-specific dimensions. National action plans on women and peace and security could support such implementation. A national goal to end child marriage by 2030 was presented, and work with civil society and other partners was proposed to reach that goal.

8. The discussion included a call for the international community to support the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda in developing countries through debt forgiveness and the lifting of sanctions on countries.

Innovative approaches to participation and multi-stakeholder partnerships

9. Participants called for increased visibility of the merits and achievements of women in leadership positions. They stressed the importance of mentoring women to attain decision-making positions in the public and private sectors. An example was provided of a law to promote women's empowerment in the workplace by ensuring work-life balance and women's participation in decision-making and public procurement. Evidence-based knowledge should be produced to demonstrate how women's empowerment and leadership increased operational effectiveness and was beneficial to society at large.

10. Parliamentary committees and caucuses for gender equality were seen as important vehicles for promoting gender-responsive planning, budgeting and implementation and for strengthening women's political empowerment and leadership.

11. Participants recognized a need to engage men and boys in reducing gender inequality. To that end, the example of a campaign, "Open your eyes", was provided, which involved young men in preventing sexual violence.

12. Advocacy organizations had a key role to play in improving women's representation across economic sectors. Participants noted the importance of working with community and religious leaders to shift perspectives and beliefs about the empowerment of women and girls and their enjoyment of human rights in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

13. Participants noted cultural norms and stereotypes as factors that could confine women to low-wage, low-skilled jobs. To overcome such challenges, examples were provided of outreach at the local level, facilitated by city or local governments in partnership with civil society. Citizens and organizations were successfully collaborating at the local level in providing tailored solutions, highlighting the importance of locally generated activism.

14. Sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics were needed to undertake gender analysis, including in monitoring and reviewing progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and in evaluating national policies and programmes for gender equality and women's empowerment. Participants called for the consistent use of gender-sensitive indicators across the Agenda, and emphasized a need to build the technical and financial capacity of planning ministries and national statistics offices to collect sex-disaggregated data and produce and disseminate gender statistics.

15. Participants called for innovative approaches to collect data for Sustainable Development Goal indicators. They encouraged international, regional and national organizations to explore using big data, crowdsourced data and social media to produce and disseminate statistics, especially on violence against women, unpaid care work and reproductive health.

16. Participants called upon the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women to support the implementation of the outcomes of the Commission and to support Member States in the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: review theme: the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls

Chair's summary

1. At its 4th meeting, on 15 March 2016, the Commission on the Status of Women evaluated progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions on the priority theme from its fifty-seventh session, "Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls" (see E/2013/27-E/CN.6/2013/11), through an interactive dialogue. The meetings were chaired by Andreas Glossner, Fatma al Zahraa Hassan and Šejla Đurbuzović, Vice-Chairs of the Commission. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Dubravka Šimonović, concluded the consideration of the review theme with her reflections on the key messages and lessons learned from three years of implementation.

2. As part of the review, 10 Member States from different regions presented, on a voluntary basis, lessons learned, challenges and best practices and identified means for accelerated implementation through national and regional efforts. The presentations, by Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Egypt, Estonia, Japan, Romania, Sweden, Turkey and Tunisia, are available from www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw60-2016/official-meetings#presentation1. A further 11 Member States, namely, Argentina, Eritrea, Finland, Georgia, India, Italy, Mexico, Morocco, the Republic of Korea, Slovakia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, presented in brief their efforts towards the implementation of the agreed conclusions. The presentations gave rise to interactive discussion on how the agreed

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conclusions had been instrumental for accelerated action on preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls.

3. As part of the review theme, an interactive expert panel convened on 17 March 2016 to reflect on ways to support and achieve accelerated implementation, including through addressing data gaps and challenges in the enhanced collection, reporting, use and analysis of data with regard to the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls. The panellists were: the Chief, Social and Housing Statistics Section, Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs; Irene Casique Rodríguez (Mexico), Researcher, Regional Centre for Multidisciplinary Studies of the National Autonomous University; and Ainur Dossanova (Kazakhstan), Chief Expert, Division of Social and Demographic Statistics, Committee for Statistics, Ministry of National Economy.

4. All speakers in the interactive dialogue on the review theme affirmed that violence against women and girls occurred in all countries and cultures and noted that such violence was rooted in structural gender inequality and discrimination. Participants discussed the various forms and manifestations of violence against women and girls, as well as new and emerging forms of violence, including those related to developments in technology. They highlighted the impact and consequences of such violence on the lives of individuals, families, communities and societies. Several speakers asserted that the agreed conclusions from the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women provided a comprehensive road map for countries in preventing and responding to all forms of violence against women and girls.

5. There was broad agreement that progress had been made in implementing the agreed conclusions in all key areas, including through the adoption, strengthening and implementation of relevant laws and policies, the implementation of prevention strategies, the provision of a range of services for the protection, care and recovery of victims/survivors, and improvements in data collection and analysis. The importance of exchanging experiences and good practices with a view to advancing implementation within and across countries was emphasized.

6. Many speakers noted that, in order to be effective, interventions aimed at ending violence against women and girls had to be multisectoral and well-coordinated to ensure clarity of roles and responsibilities. Speakers consistently stressed the role and importance of civil society organizations in preventing and responding to violence against women and girls. Concerns were raised about the lack of adequate funding for efforts to address violence against women and girls, and calls were made for stronger political will to secure such funding.

7. Many speakers noted the importance of international and regional human rights legal and policy documents to support their efforts towards the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls. Several participants drew attention to the ratification of international and regional instruments by their countries and how it had provided the impetus for the development and strengthening of national legal and policy frameworks.

8. Participants highlighted the importance of comprehensive legislation on violence against women and girls. Some noted that such legislation had recently been enacted or strengthened in their countries, while others referred to ongoing efforts to enact such legislation. In addition to legislation, participants gave

examples of national policies and action plans on ending violence against women and girls, including for specific forms of violence and harmful practices, such as gender-related killings (femicide/feminicide) and female genital mutilation/cutting. Speakers also discussed the remaining challenges and gaps in relation to the implementation of laws and policies, as well as the monitoring and evaluation of their impact.

9. Speakers pointed out the urgency of the prevention of violence against women and girls and agreed that such efforts had to go beyond mere awareness-raising. Many participants discussed efforts to change attitudes, beliefs and behaviours by reaching out to boys and girls and young women and men through education curricula, arts programmes and information and communications technology. Many participants referred to their efforts in addressing harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation/cutting, and provided examples of promising initiatives, such as national awareness-raising campaigns, which had led to positive changes in public attitudes to those harmful practices.

10. Initiatives for the economic empowerment of women, including through microcredit programmes, as well as measures to increase women's leadership in politics and the public sector, were in place in many countries to support prevention efforts. Despite those efforts and gains, concerns were voiced about the reassertion of patriarchal norms and traditional masculinities as a barrier to preventing and ending violence against women and girls.

11. Many speakers underlined the need to ensure the availability and accessibility of services. While one-stop centres were increasingly being used, the limitations of such options outside urban areas were also raised. Speakers emphasized the urgent need for targeted measures to address the needs of specific groups of women and girls, including those who faced multiple forms of discrimination and who were more vulnerable to violence.

12. Greater efforts were needed to provide information on the availability of services and on the rights of victims/survivors to access services. Speakers also emphasized the challenge of accessibility of services for women living in rural and remote regions but provided examples of good practices, such as the provision of multisectoral services through mobile units.

13. Participants stressed the importance of supporting ongoing training on gender equality and violence against women and girls and of capacity-building for the police, the judiciary, local governments, social service providers and the media. Many speakers stressed the need to ensure that perpetrators were held accountable, through justice mechanisms and other initiatives such as perpetrator programmes.

14. Several examples were provided of efforts to support children who had been directly exposed to and/or had witnessed violence. Participants stressed the importance of intervening at the earliest opportunity with such children in order to avoid further revictimization or future perpetration of violence. Some speakers discussed ongoing work with the police to strengthen their response to child victims.

15. Participants referred to the urgent need to develop national monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the impact of laws, policies and programmes that address violence against women and girls.

16. The challenges and lessons learned in the collection, production and use of statistics on violence against women, as well as the opportunities and challenges presented by the monitoring requirements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, were discussed during the interactive expert panel on addressing data gaps and methodology issues. Speakers highlighted the increased availability of data and addressed methodological standards for the production of statistics on specific forms of violence against women. Among the main challenges were the comparability of data within and across countries; the lack of standards for the collection of data on specific forms of violence; the high cost of conducting surveys; and ethical and safety concerns relating to the collection of data on the subject. Participants also mentioned the limitations of existing surveys and the lack of available data for specific subgroups of women, including older women and young girls, women from ethnic minorities, women with disabilities, indigenous women and members of the lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex community.

17. Speakers stressed the importance of involving all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, in the planning processes for the collection and use of data, as well as the added value of using qualitative methods to better understand the causes, risk factors and consequences of violence against women and girls. Participants gave examples of their efforts to develop national information systems on violence against women to gather data from different sources and noted the need for harmonization between different data sources.

18. Speakers were optimistic about the opportunities presented by the monitoring requirements for the Sustainable Development Goals to improve the collection of data on all forms of violence and on groups of women who were at higher risk of violence and for whom data were currently lacking. They also highlighted opportunities for building the capacities of national statistics offices and other relevant stakeholders to produce statistics on violence against women.

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E/2016/27-E/CN.6/2016/22

Commission on the Status of Women

Report on the sixtieth session
(20 March 2015 and 14-24 March 2016)

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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Summary

At its sixtieth session, the Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/18, considered as its priority theme "Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development". It also considered as its review theme "The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls", evaluating progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions from its fifty-seventh session.

Based on its new methods of work, adopted by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 2015/6, the session included a ministerial segment comprised of four ministerial round tables, one interactive dialogue among ministers, consideration of the review theme and a general discussion. As called for in its new methods of work, the consideration of the review theme included, for the first time, presentations, on a voluntary basis, by 10 member States from different regions on lessons learned, challenges and best practices, and means for accelerated implementation to eliminate and prevent all forms of violence against women and girls. In addition, 11 Member States presented their efforts on the implementation of the agreed conclusions through short interventions. The Commission also held two interactive expert panel discussions on the priority theme, one of which focused on key strategies for gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the other on participation and partnerships for gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda. An expert panel discussion held in conjunction with the review theme reflected on ways to support and achieve accelerated implementation, including through addressing data gaps and challenges in the enhanced collection, reporting, use and analysis of data with regard to the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls. The Commission did not discuss emerging issues, trends, focus areas and new approaches to questions affecting the situation of women, including equality between women and men.

The Commission adopted agreed conclusions on the priority theme. They included references to existing commitments and areas and issues, as well as actors, of importance in the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Commission urges all stakeholders to take action in the following five areas:

(a) Strengthening normative, legal and policy frameworks;

(b) Fostering enabling environments for financing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

(c) Strengthening women's leadership and women's full and equal participation in decision-making in all areas of sustainable development;

(d) Strengthening gender-responsive data collection, follow-up and review processes;

(e) Enhancing national institutional arrangements.

The Commission called on the United Nations system and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women to support gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also affirmed that it will contribute to the thematic reviews of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals taking place in the context of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and exercise its catalytic role for gender mainstreaming, so as to ensure that follow-up and review processes benefit all women and girls and contribute to the full realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by 2030.

The work of the Commission on the priority theme and its agreed conclusions constitute an input to the work of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum.

In addition, the Commission adopted the following:

(a) A resolution entitled "Multi-year programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women", for action by the Economic and Social Council;

(b) By a recorded vote, a resolution entitled "Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women", for action by the Economic and Social Council;

(c) A decision for adoption by the Council, entitled "Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its sixtieth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-first session of the Commission";

(d) A resolution entitled "Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts";

(e) A resolution entitled "Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS".

The Commission further decided to take note of the report of its Working Group on Communications and to include it in the present report in its entirety.

[8 April 2016]

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Agreed conclusions on women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development

1. The following agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission are transmitted to the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 68/1 of 20 September 2013 and 70/1 of 21 October 2015, as an input to the work of the Council.

Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development*

1. The Commission on the Status of Women reaffirms the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[1] the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly[2] and the declarations adopted by the Commission on the occasions of the tenth, fifteenth and twentieth anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women.[3]

2. The Commission reaffirms that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[4] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[5] and the Optional Protocols thereto,[6] as well as other relevant conventions and treaties, provide an international legal framework and a comprehensive set of measures for realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all women and girls throughout their life cycle.

3. The Commission reaffirms that the promotion and protection of, and respect for, the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women, including the right to development, which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, should be mainstreamed into all policies and programmes aimed at the eradication of poverty, and also reaffirms the need to take measures to ensure that every person is entitled to participate in, contribute to and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development and that equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the promotion, protection and full realization of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

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* For the discussion, see chap. III.

[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution I, annexes I and II.

[2] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27 and Corr.1-E/CN.6/2005/11 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A; ibid., *2010, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2010/27 and Corr.1-E/CN.6/2010/11 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A; and ibid., *2015, Supplement No. 7* (E/2015/27-E/CN.6/2015/10), chap. I, sect. C, resolution 59/1.

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[5] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[6] Ibid., vol. 2131, No. 20378; and vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531; and resolution 66/138, annex.

4. The Commission reaffirms the commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls made at relevant United Nations summits and conferences, including the International Conference on Population and Development and its Programme of Action[7] and the key actions for its further implementation. The Commission also reaffirms commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls made at the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, as well as the recognition of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and recalls the Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: A Commitment to Action, held on 27 September 2015, and the meeting of the Security Council, held on 13 October 2015, on women and peace and security.

5. The Commission reaffirms that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of its reviews, and the outcomes of relevant major United Nations conferences and summits and the follow-up to those conferences and summits, have laid a solid foundation for sustainable development and that the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action will make a crucial contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[8] that will leave no one behind.

6. The Commission acknowledges the important role played by regional conventions, instruments and initiatives in their respective regions and countries in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, including for sustainable development.

7. The Commission welcomes the commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls contained in the 2030 Agenda, recognizes that women play a vital role as agents of development and acknowledges that realizing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is crucial to making progress across all Sustainable Development Goals and targets. The Commission stresses that the achievement of full human potential and of sustainable development is not possible if women and girls continue to be denied the full realization of their human rights and opportunities.

8. The Commission expresses concern that the feminization of poverty persists, and emphasizes that the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. The Commission acknowledges the mutually reinforcing links between the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the eradication of poverty, and the need to ensure an adequate standard of living for women and girls throughout the life cycle, including through social protection systems.

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[7] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[8] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

9. The Commission reaffirms that the realization of the right to education contributes to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, human rights, sustainable development and poverty eradication. The Commission notes with concern the lack of progress in closing gender gaps in access to, retention in, and completion of secondary education, which is key to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and the realization of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as enabling other positive social and economic outcomes. All women and girls must therefore enjoy access to lifelong learning opportunities and equal access to quality education at all levels, including early childhood, primary, secondary and tertiary education and technical and vocational training.

10. The Commission recognizes that women's equal economic rights, economic empowerment and independence are essential to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. It underlines the importance of undertaking legislative and other reforms to realize the equal rights of women and men, as well as girls and boys where applicable, to access economic and productive resources, including land and natural resources, property and inheritance rights, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance, and equal opportunities for women for full and productive employment and decent work, and equal pay for equal work or work of equal value. The Commission acknowledges the positive contribution of migrant women workers to inclusive growth and sustainable development.

11. The Commission further recognizes that achievement of the 2030 Agenda requires the full integration of women into the formal economy, including through their effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life and through changing the current gender-based division of labour to ensure that unpaid care and domestic work is equally shared and recognized, reduced and redistributed.

12. The Commission recognizes that conflicts, trafficking in persons, terrorism, violent extremism, natural disasters, humanitarian emergencies and other emergency situations disproportionately affect women and girls. It therefore recognizes that it is essential to ensure that women are empowered to effectively and meaningfully participate in leadership and decision-making processes, that their needs and interests are prioritized in strategies and responses and that the human rights of women and girls are promoted and protected in all development efforts, as well as in conflict, humanitarian emergencies and other emergency situations.

13. The Commission stresses the need to ensure that no one is left behind in implementing the 2030 Agenda and in this regard recognizes the challenges faced by refugee women and girls and the need to protect and empower them, including in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, and the need to strengthen the resilience of communities hosting refugees, and underscores the importance of development support for those communities, particularly in developing countries.

14. The Commission reiterates its concern over the challenge climate change poses to the achievement of sustainable development and that women and

girls, who face inequality and discrimination, are often disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change and other environmental issues, including, inter alia, desertification, deforestation, dust storms, natural disasters, persistent drought, extreme weather events, sea level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification. Furthermore, the Commission recognizes, in line with the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[9] that countries should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote, and consider gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

15. The Commission strongly condemns all forms of violence against all women and girls. It expresses deep concern that discrimination and violence against women and girls, in particular against those who are most vulnerable, continues in all parts of the world and that all forms of violence against women and girls, including, inter alia, sexual and gender-based violence, domestic violence, trafficking in persons and femicide, among others, as well as harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, are impediments to the full achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, the realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all women and girls and the development of their full potential as equal partners with men and boys, as well as the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

16. The Commission, while welcoming progress made towards gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, emphasizes that no country has fully achieved gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, that significant levels of inequality between women and men, girls and boys persist globally and that many women and girls experience vulnerability and marginalization owing to, inter alia, multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination throughout their life cycle.

17. The Commission recognizes that gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires the acceleration of action on both recent and long-standing commitments to realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and the equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

18. The Commission reaffirms the importance of significantly increased investment to close resource gaps for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including through the mobilization of financial resources from all sources, including domestic and international resource mobilization and allocation, the full implementation of official development assistance commitments and by combatting illicit financial flows, to build on progress achieved and strengthen international cooperation, including the role of North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, bearing in mind that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation.

19. The Commission stresses the urgency of the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

[9] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1.

and recalls that the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is crucial.

20. The Commission notes that the 2030 Agenda is of unprecedented scope and significance. It is accepted by all countries, is applicable to all and will be implemented within countries and at the regional and global levels, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policy space for sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, in particular for developing States, while remaining consistent with relevant international rules and commitments. The Commission affirms that Governments have the primary responsibility for the follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda at the national, regional and global levels with regard to progress made.

21. The Commission welcomes the major contributions made by civil society, including women's and community-based organizations, feminist groups, women human rights defenders and girls' and youth-led organizations, in placing the interests, needs and visions of women and girls on local, national, regional and international agendas, including the 2030 Agenda, and recognizes the importance of having an open, inclusive and transparent engagement with them in the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

22. The Commission recognizes the importance of fully engaging men and boys as agents and beneficiaries of change in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and as allies in the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, as well as in the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and in the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

23. The Commission, in order to continue working towards the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which will make a crucial contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, urges Governments, at all levels and as appropriate, with the relevant entities of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates and bearing in mind national priorities, and invites national human rights institutions where they exist, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, inter alia, women's and community-based organizations, feminist groups, youth-led organizations, faith-based organizations, the private sector, employer organizations, trade unions, the media and other relevant actors, as applicable, to take the following actions:

Strengthening normative, legal and policy frameworks

(a) Consider ratifying or acceding to, as a matter of particular priority, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Optional Protocols thereto, limit the extent of any reservations, formulate any such reservations as precisely and as narrowly as possible to ensure that no reservations are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Conventions, review their reservations regularly with a view to withdrawing them, withdraw

reservations that are contrary to the object and purpose of the relevant Convention and implement the Conventions fully by, inter alia, putting in place effective national legislation and policies;

(b) Accelerate the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the outcomes of their review conferences as a foundation for sustainable development, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and compliance of States Parties with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto, as well as other relevant conventions and treaties;

(c) Implement all goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in a comprehensive manner, reflecting its universal, integrated and indivisible nature while respecting each country's policy space and leadership while remaining consistent with relevant international rules and commitments, including by developing cohesive sustainable development strategies to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and by mainstreaming a gender perspective in all government policies and programs at all levels;

(d) Eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls through the development, where needed, adoption and accelerated and effective implementation and monitoring of laws and comprehensive policy measures, the removal, where they exist, of discriminatory provisions in legal frameworks, including punitive provisions, and setting up legal, policy, administrative and other comprehensive measures, including temporary special measures as appropriate, to ensure women's and girls' equal and effective access to justice and accountability for violations of the human rights of women and girls;

(e) Enact legislation and undertake reforms to realize the equal rights of women and men, and where applicable girls and boys, to access economic and productive resources, including access to, ownership of, and control over land, property and inheritance rights, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance, and equal opportunities for women for full and productive employment and decent work;

(f) Promote women's economic rights and independence, women's right to work and rights at work through gender-responsive policies and programmes that promote decent work for all, ensure equal pay for equal work or work of equal value, protect women against discrimination and abuse in the workplace, invest in and empower women in all sectors in the economy by supporting women-led businesses, including by tailoring a range of approaches and instruments which facilitate access to universal public services, finance, training, technology, markets, sustainable and affordable energy and transport and trade;

(g) Undertake all appropriate measures to recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work by prioritizing social protection policies, including accessible and affordable quality social services, and care services

for children, persons with disabilities, older persons, persons living with HIV and AIDS and all others in need of care, and promote the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men;

(h) Promote a socially responsible and accountable private sector that acts in line with, among others, the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework,[10] the International Labour Organization Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, labour, environmental and health standards, and the Women's Empowerment Principles established by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the Global Compact, in order to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and the realization of their full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(i) Recognize the contribution of migrants, including women migrant workers, to sustainable development, and acknowledge the need to eliminate violence and discrimination against women migrant workers and to promote their empowerment, including through international, regional or bilateral cooperation among all stakeholders, in particular countries of origin, transit and destination;

(j) Take concrete steps towards eliminating the practice of gender-based price differentiation, also known as the "pink tax", whereby goods and services intended for or marketed to women and girls cost more than similar goods and services intended for or marketed to men and boys;

(k) Urges governments to provide universal and equitable access for all to safe and affordable drinking water and adequate sanitation and hygiene, in particular in schools, public facilities and buildings, paying special attention to the specific needs of all women and girls, who are disproportionately affected by inadequate water and sanitation facilities, are at greater risk of violence and harassment when practising open defecation and have specific needs for menstrual hygiene management, and to improve water management and wastewater treatment with the active participation of women;

(l) Recognize the critical role of women as agents of change and leaders in addressing climate change, and promote a gender-responsive approach, the integration of a gender perspective and the empowerment of women and girls in environmental, climate change and disaster risk reduction strategies, financing, policies and processes, towards achieving the meaningful and equal participation of women in decision-making at all levels on environmental issues and towards building the resilience of women and girls to the adverse effects of climate change;

(m) Ensure that the rights and specific needs of women and girls affected and displaced by conflicts, trafficking in persons, terrorism, violent extremism, natural disasters, humanitarian emergencies and other emergency situations are addressed in national and international plans, strategies and responses, and also ensure the participation of women and girls at all levels of decision-making in emergency, recovery, reconstruction, conflict resolution

[10] A/HRC/17/31, annex.

and peacebuilding processes, provide education for all, especially girls, to contribute to a smooth transition from relief to development and address sexual and gender-based violence as an integral and prioritized part of every humanitarian response, and in this respect, the Commission encourages the World Humanitarian Summit, to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 23 and 24 May 2016, to give due consideration to integrating a gender perspective into its deliberations;

(n) Refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries;

(o) Ensure the promotion and protection of the human rights of all women and their sexual and reproductive health, and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences, including through the development and enforcement of policies and legal frameworks and the strengthening of health systems that make universally accessible and available quality comprehensive sexual and reproductive health-care services, commodities, information and education, including, inter alia, safe and effective methods of modern contraception, emergency contraception, prevention programmes for adolescent pregnancy, maternal health care such as skilled birth attendance and emergency obstetric care which will reduce obstetric fistula and other complications of pregnancy and delivery, safe abortion where such services are permitted by national law, and prevention and treatment of reproductive tract infections, sexually transmitted infections, HIV, and reproductive cancers, recognizing that human rights include the right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free from coercion, discrimination and violence;

(p) Promote and respect women's and girls' right to education throughout their life cycle at all levels, especially for those who are the most left behind, by providing universal access to quality education, ensuring inclusive, equal and non-discriminatory quality education, promoting learning opportunities for all, ensuring completion of primary and secondary education and eliminating gender disparities in access to all areas of secondary and tertiary education, promoting financial literacy, ensuring that women and girls have equal access to career development, training, scholarships and fellowships, and adopting positive action to build women's and girls' leadership skills and influence, and adopt measures that promote, respect and guarantee the safety of women and girls in the school environment and that support women and girls with disabilities at all levels of education and training;

(q) Mainstream a gender perspective into education and training programmes, including science and technology, eradicate female illiteracy and support school-to-work transition through skills development to enable women's and girls' active participation in economic, social and cultural

development, governance and decision-making, and create conditions that facilitate women's full participation and integration in the formal economy;

(r) Adopt, review and ensure the accelerated and effective implementation of laws that criminalize violence against women and girls, as well as comprehensive, multidisciplinary and gender-sensitive preventive, protective and prosecutorial measures and services to eliminate and prevent all forms of violence against all women and girls, in public and private spaces, as well as harmful practices;

(s) Design and implement appropriate domestic policies at all levels that aim to transform discriminatory social attitudes and gender stereotypes and to promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

(t) Fully engage men and boys, including community leaders, as strategic partners and allies in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls in both the public and private spheres, design and implement national policies and programmes that address the role and responsibility of men and boys and aim to ensure the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men in caregiving and domestic work, transform with the aim to eliminate those social norms that condone violence against women and girls and attitudes and social norms by which women and girls are regarded as subordinate to men and boys, including by understanding and addressing the root causes of gender inequality, such as unequal power relations, social norms, practices and stereotypes that perpetuate discrimination against women and girls, and engage them in efforts to promote and achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls for the benefit of both women and men, girls and boys;

(u) Recognize the important role and contribution of rural women and girls, as well as local communities, to food security, poverty eradication, environmental sustainability and sustainable development and commit to supporting their empowerment, and ensure rural women's full, equal and effective participation in society, the economy and political decision-making;

(v) Formulate and implement, in collaboration with indigenous peoples, in particular indigenous women and their organizations, policies and programmes designed to promote capacity-building and strengthen their leadership while recognizing the distinct and important role of indigenous women and girls in sustainable development, and prevent and eliminate discrimination and violence against indigenous women and girls, which has a negative impact on their human rights and fundamental freedoms, to which they are disproportionately vulnerable and which constitutes a major impediment to indigenous women's full, equal and effective participation in society, the economy, and political decision-making;

(w) Take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social, educational, employment and other measures to protect and promote the rights of all women and girls with disabilities, ensuring their full and effective participation and inclusion in society, and to address the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination they face;

(x) Recognize the family as a contributor to development, including in the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals for women and girls, that gender equality and women's empowerment improve the well-being of the family, and in this regard stress the need for elaborating and implementing family policies aimed at achieving gender equality and women's empowerment and at enhancing the full participation of women in society;

Fostering enabling environments for financing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls

(y) Promote gender equality and the empowerment of women by reaffirming the commitments made in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[11] pursuing policy coherence and an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels and by all actors and reinvigorating the global partnership for sustainable development;

(z) Reiterate the need for gender mainstreaming, including targeted actions and investments in the formulation and implementation of all financial, economic, environmental and social policies, and adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation and transformative actions for the promotion of gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment at all levels;

(aa) Support and institutionalize a gender-responsive approach to public financial management, including gender-responsive budgeting and tracking across all sectors of public expenditure, to address gaps in resourcing for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and ensure that all national and sectoral plans and policies for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are fully costed and adequately resourced to ensure their effective implementation;

(bb) Take steps to significantly increase investment to close resource gaps, including through the mobilization of financial resources from all sources, including public, private, domestic and international resource mobilization and allocation, including by enhancing revenue administration through modernized, progressive tax systems, improved tax policy, more efficient tax collection and increased priority on gender equality and the empowerment of women in official development assistance to build on progress achieved, and ensure that official development assistance is used effectively;

(cc) Urge developed countries to fully implement their respective official development assistance commitments, including the commitment made by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national income for official development assistance to developing countries and the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross national income for official development assistance to least developed countries, and encourage developing countries to build on the progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help meet development goals and

[11] General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

targets and help them, inter alia, to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women;

(dd) Strengthen international cooperation, including the role of North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, bearing in mind that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation, and the Commission invites all States to enhance South-South and triangular cooperation, focusing on shared development priorities, with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders in government, civil society and the private sector, while noting that national ownership and leadership in this regard are indispensable for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

(ee) Implement macroeconomic, labour and social policies that promote full and productive employment and decent work for all in order to benefit women and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as to enhance economic efficiency and optimize the contribution of women to economic growth and poverty reduction, promote processes to develop and facilitate the availability of appropriate knowledge and technologies globally, and increase awareness among decision-makers, the private sector and employers of the necessity of women's economic empowerment and their important contribution;

Strengthening women's leadership and women's full and equal participation in decision-making in all areas of sustainable development

(ff) Take measures to ensure women's full, equal and effective participation in all fields and in leadership at all levels of decision-making in the public and private sectors and in public, social, economic and political life and in all areas of sustainable development;

(gg) Take measures to ensure women's full, equal and effective participation, including through temporary special measures as appropriate, by setting and working to achieve concrete goals, targets and benchmarks, including by providing education and training, and by removing all barriers that directly and indirectly hinder the participation of women, and girls where applicable, in decision-making roles in all sectors and at all levels, such as lack of access to quality and inclusive education and training, as well as such barriers as violence, poverty, unequal distribution of unpaid care and domestic work, and gender stereotypes;

(hh) Take measures to ensure women's effective participation at all levels and at all stages in peace processes and mediation efforts, conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and recovery, as set out in relevant Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security;

(ii) Encourages States to recognize shared work and parental responsibilities between women and men in order to promote women's increased participation in public life, and take appropriate measures to achieve this, including measures to reconcile family, private and professional life;

(jj) Promote a safe and enabling environment for all civil society actors so that they can fully contribute to the gender-responsive implementation,

follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda in line with the relevant provisions of the Agenda;

(kk) Increase resources and support for grass-roots, local, national, regional and global women's and civil society organizations to advance and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls;

Strengthening gender-responsive data collection, follow-up and review processes

(ll) Include a gender-responsive approach in the national follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda, taking into account, where applicable, the agreed global indicator framework,[12] and strengthen national statistical capacity, including by enhancing technical and financial assistance to developing countries, to systematically design, collect and ensure access to high-quality, reliable and timely data disaggregated by sex, age and income and other characteristics relevant in national contexts;

(mm) Develop and enhance standards and methodologies at the national and international levels to improve the collection, analysis and dissemination of gender statistics on, inter alia, poverty, income distribution within households, unpaid care work, women's access to, control and ownership of assets and productive resources, participation at all levels of decision-making and violence against women, to measure progress for women and girls with regard to sustainable development in the context of the 2030 Agenda;

(nn) Enhance technical and financial collaboration between countries, with the support of United Nations entities, within their mandates, and the participation of civil society organizations as appropriate, with the aim of collecting data and statistics to follow up on and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda from a gender equality perspective.

Enhancing national institutional arrangements

24. The Commission calls upon Governments to strengthen the authority and capacity, including through funding where possible, of national mechanisms for promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, at all levels, including to support the mainstreaming of a gender perspective across all policies and programmes in all sectors of government in the context of the 2030 Agenda, and promote the visibility of and support for these mechanisms.

25. The Commission also calls upon Governments to enhance coherence and coordination of national mechanisms for promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, with relevant government agencies and other stakeholders, where appropriate, to ensure that national planning, decision-making, policy formulation and implementation, budgeting processes and institutional structures contribute to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

[12] See E/CN.3/2016/2/Rev.1.

26. The Commission calls upon the United Nations system entities, within their respective mandates, to support States, upon their request, in their gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

27. The Commission recognizes its primary role for the follow-up to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in which its work is grounded and stresses that it is critical to address and integrate gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls throughout national, regional and global reviews of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to ensure synergies between the follow-up to the Beijing Platform for Action and the gender-responsive follow-up to the 2030 Agenda.

28. The Commission calls upon UN-Women to continue to play a central role in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and in supporting Member States, upon their request, in coordinating the United Nations system and in mobilizing civil society, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, at all levels, in support of the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda.

29. The Commission recalls General Assembly resolution 70/163 and encourages the secretariat to consider how to enhance the participation, including at the sixty-first session of the Commission, of national human rights institutions that are fully compliant with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles), where they exist, in compliance with the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

30. The Commission affirms that it will contribute to the thematic reviews of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals taking place at the high-level political forum on sustainable development and will exercise its catalytic role for gender mainstreaming so as to ensure that follow-up and review processes benefit all women and girls and contribute to the full realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by 2030.

B. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Council

2. The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Multi-year programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that, in its resolutions 1987/24 of 26 May 1987, 1990/15 of 24 May 1990, 1996/6 of 22 July 1996, 2001/4 of 24 July 2001, 2006/9 of 25 July 2006, 2009/15 of 28 July 2009 and 2013/18 of 24 July 2013, the Council adopted multi-year programmes of work for a focused and thematic approach for the Commission on the Status of Women,

* For the discussion, see chap. II.

Recalling also that in its resolution 2013/18 the Council requested the Commission at its sixtieth session to decide on its future multi-year programme of work,

Recalling further its resolution 2015/6 of 8 June 2015, in which the Council requested the Commission to continue to apply a thematic approach to its work and to adopt a multi-year programme of work to allow predictability and adequate time for preparation; in selecting its priority theme, taking into consideration, in addition to the Beijing Platform for Action[13] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[14] the programme of work of the Council, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[15] so as to build synergies and contribute to the work of the Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development, according to the modalities to be established by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in the context of the high-level political forum,

Recalling that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with their respective mandates and in accordance with Assembly resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and other relevant resolutions, should constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that would play the primary role in the overall policymaking and follow-up, and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Platform for Action and reaffirming the catalytic role of the Commission in mainstreaming a gender perspective in policies and programmes,

Acknowledging the centrality of the Beijing Platform for Action to the work of the Commission on the Status of Women, and recognizing that a robust, voluntary, effective, participatory, transparent and integrated follow-up and review framework of the 2030 Agenda will make a vital contribution to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and help countries to maximize and track progress in order to ensure that no one is left behind,

Recalling the invitation to the Commission on the Status of Women to consider the issue of the empowerment of indigenous women at a future session, as stated in paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 69/2 of 22 September 2014, and acknowledging the intention to place this issue as a focus area of its sixty-first session,

Themes for 2017-2019

1. *Decides* that the Commission's multi-year programme of work for the sixty-first, sixty-second and sixty-third sessions will be as follows:

(a) Sixty-first session (2017):

(i) Priority theme: women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work;

[13] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.
[14] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.
[15] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

(ii) Review theme: challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls (agreed conclusions of the fifty-eighth session);

(b) Sixty-second session (2018):

(i) Priority theme: challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls;

(ii) Review theme: participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women (agreed conclusions of the forty-seventh session);

(c) Sixty-third session (2019):

(i) Priority theme: social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

(ii) Review theme: women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development (agreed conclusions of the sixtieth session);

2. *Requests* the Commission, in order to achieve concrete results in each review cycle, to consider and make a recommendation at its sixty-second session on how best to utilize the year 2020, on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, so as to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

3. *Affirms* that the Commission will contribute to the thematic reviews of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals[3] taking place at the high-level political forum.

Draft resolution II
Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women*

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[2] in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women,[3] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session

* For the discussion, see chap. III.
[1] E/CN.6/2016/6.
[2] *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.
[3] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[4]

Recalling also its resolution 2015/13 of 10 June 2015 and other relevant United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003, on the prevention of armed conflict, and Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 and 2122 (2013) of 18 October 2013 on women and peace and security,

Recalling further the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women[5] as it concerns the protection of civilian populations,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[6] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[6] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[7] and reaffirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Recalling also the relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council,

Taking note of the accession by the State of Palestine to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law treaties,

Expressing deep concern about the grave situation of Palestinian women in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, resulting from the severe impact of the ongoing illegal Israeli occupation and all of its manifestations,

Expressing grave concern about the increased difficulties being faced by Palestinian women and girls living under Israeli occupation, including as a result of the continuation of home demolitions, evictions of Palestinians, the revocation of residency rights, arbitrary detention and imprisonment, as well as high rates of poverty, unemployment, food insecurity, inadequate water supply and unsafe drinking water, shortage of electricity and fuel, incidents of domestic violence and declining health, education and living standards, including the rising incidence of trauma and the decline in their psychological well-being, particularly in the Gaza Strip, where a humanitarian disaster continues to severely affect the situation of women and girls,

Deploring the dire economic and social conditions of Palestinian women and girls in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the systematic violation of their human rights resulting from the severe impact of ongoing illegal Israeli practices, including the forced displacement and transfer of civilians, especially among the Bedouin community, and confiscation of land, particularly in connection with the construction and expansion of settlements and the wall, which continue to constitute a major obstacle to peace on the basis of the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders, and the continued imposition of closures and restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, including the permit regime throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which have detrimentally affected their

[4] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.
[5] General Assembly resolution 48/104.
[6] See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

right to health care, including access of pregnant women to health-care services for antenatal care and safe delivery, education, employment, development and freedom of movement,

Expressing grave concern about all acts of violence, intimidation and provocation by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians, including women and children, and properties, including homes, mosques, churches and agricultural lands, condemning acts of terror by several extremist Israeli settlers, and calling for accountability for the illegal actions perpetrated in this regard,

Gravely concerned by the tensions and violence in the recent period throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and deploring the loss of innocent civilian life, including among girls and women, as a result of excessive and indiscriminate use of force by Israeli occupying forces,

Condemning the military conflict in and around the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014 and the civilian casualties caused, including the killing and injury of thousands of Palestinian civilians, including hundreds of children, women and elderly persons, as well as the widespread destruction of homes and critical civilian infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, water, sanitation and electricity networks, economic, industrial and agricultural properties, public institutions, religious sites and United Nations schools and facilities, as well as the internal displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians, and any violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law,

Taking note of the report and findings of the independent commission of inquiry established pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution S-21/1,[8] and stressing the need to ensure accountability for all violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in order to end impunity, ensure justice, deter further violations, protect civilians and promote peace,

Gravely concerned, in particular, by the persisting disastrous humanitarian situation and socioeconomic conditions in the Gaza Strip, including those resulting from the Israeli military operations in July and August 2014, as well as the long-term negative impact of Israeli military operations from December 2008 to January 2009 and in November 2012, and the continuing imposition of a blockade consisting of the prolonged closure of border crossings and severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, as well as the continued impeding of the reconstruction process by Israel, the occupying Power, which has detrimentally affected every aspect of the lives of the civilian population, especially women and children, in the Gaza Strip,

Stressing the need for measures to be taken to guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilian population throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, consistent with the provisions and obligations under international humanitarian law,

[8] A/HRC/29/52.

Stressing also the importance of providing assistance, especially emergency assistance, to alleviate the dire socioeconomic and humanitarian situation being faced by Palestinian women and their families, and recognizing the essential efforts and support being provided by the United Nations agencies and other humanitarian aid organizations on the ground, particularly in response to the grave humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip,

Recalling the convening of the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, on 12 October 2014, and urging the timely and full disbursement of pledges for expediting the provision of humanitarian assistance and the reconstruction process, which is essential for alleviating the distress of Palestinian women and their families,

Expressing grave concern that Palestinian women and girls continue to be held in Israeli prisons or detention centres under harsh conditions including, inter alia, unhygienic conditions, solitary confinement, extensive use of administrative detention of excessive duration without charge and denial of due process, and noting that women and girls also face gender-specific challenges, including inadequate access to medical care, risks associated with pregnancy and giving birth in prison and sexual harassment,

Reiterating the importance of increasing the role of women in peacebuilding and decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and the peaceful resolution of conflicts as part of efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of all women in the region, and stressing the importance of women's equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Israeli occupation remains the major obstacle for Palestinian women with regard to their advancement, self-reliance and integration in the development of their society, and stresses the importance of efforts to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution and to ensure their equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security;

2. *Calls upon* the international community, in this regard, to continue to provide urgently needed assistance, especially emergency assistance, and services, bearing in mind, inter alia, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[9] and national priorities, in an effort to alleviate the dire humanitarian crisis being faced by Palestinian women and their families, in particular for addressing the humanitarian crisis and immense reconstruction and recovery needs in the Gaza Strip, and to help in the reconstruction of relevant Palestinian institutions, with the integration of a gender perspective into all of its international assistance programmes, commends the achievements of the Palestinian Government in constructing the institutions of an independent Palestinian State, as confirmed by international institutions, including by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the United Nations, and calls for continued support of these efforts;

3. *Calls upon* international donors to fulfil without delay all pledges made on 12 October 2014 at the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, in order to expedite the provision of humanitarian assistance

[9] See General Assembly resolution 70/1.

and the reconstruction process, which is essential for alleviating the distress of Palestinian women and their families;

4. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[10] the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention IV of 18 October 1907, the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949[11] and all other relevant rules, principles and instruments of international law, including the International Covenants on Human Rights,[6] in order to protect the rights of Palestinian women and their families;

5. *Urges* the international community to continue to give special attention to the promotion and protection of the human rights of Palestinian women and girls and to intensify its measures to improve the difficult conditions being faced by Palestinian women and their families living under Israeli occupation;

6. *Calls upon* Israel to facilitate the return of all refugees and displaced Palestinian women and children to their homes and properties, in compliance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

7. *Urges* the international community to make renewed efforts aimed at advancing and accelerating the conclusion of a peace treaty based on clear parameters and with a defined time frame to attain without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 by resolving all outstanding issues, including all core issues, without exception, for a just, lasting and peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, in accordance with the internationally recognized basis of the two-State solution, and of the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole, for the realization of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East;

8. *Requests* the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[2] in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action[3] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";[4]

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation, to assist Palestinian women by all available means, including those laid out in his report,[1] and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-first session a report, including information provided by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

C. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

3. The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Council the adoption of the following draft decision.

[10] *General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).*
[11] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its sixtieth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-first session of the Commission*

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its sixtieth session and approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-first session of the Commission set out below:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":

(a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:

(i) Priority theme: women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work;

(ii) Review theme: challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls (agreed conclusions of the fifty-eighth session);

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work

Report of the Secretary-General on the challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls (agreed conclusions of the fifty eighth session)

Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

Note by the Secretariat containing a discussion guide for the ministerial round tables

(b) Emerging issues, trends, focus areas and new approaches to questions affecting the situation of women, including equality between women and men;

(c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.

* For the discussion, see chaps. VI and VII.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

Report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the outcome of relevant sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

4. Communications concerning the status of women.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of confidential communications concerning the status of women and responses thereto

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.

Documentation

Letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women

Note by the Secretariat serving as a contribution to the work of the Economic and Social Council

6. Provisional agenda for the sixty-second session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-first session.

D. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

4. The following resolutions and decision adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

Resolution 60/1
Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Guided by the purposes, principles and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations,

Guided also by the principles and norms of international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949[1] and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977,[2] as well as relevant international standards of human rights, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human

[*] For the discussion, see chap. III.
[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.
[2] Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

Rights,[3] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[4] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[4] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[5] the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[6] the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment[7] and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted on 25 June 1993 by the World Conference on Human Rights,[8]

Taking duly into account the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/177 of 20 December 2006,[9]

Recalling all its previous resolutions on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts,[10] as well as all relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council concerning hostage-taking and General Assembly resolution 61/172 of 19 December 2006,

Recognizing that women and children bear particular vulnerabilities when taken hostage, including sexual violence and reproductive health concerns,

Recognizing also that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person and that the taking of hostages is an offence of grave concern to the international community,

Recalling the relevant provisions contained in the instruments of international humanitarian law relative to the protection of the civilian population as such,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[11] as well as the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[12] and the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled "A world fit for children",[13] including the provisions therein regarding violence against women and children, and further reaffirming the declarations of the Commission on the Status of Women on the tenth, fifteenth and twentieth anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women,[14]

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[3] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).
[4] See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.
[6] Ibid., vol. 1577. No. 27531.
[7] Ibid., vol. 1465, No. 24841.
[8] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.
[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2716, No. 48088.
[10] Resolutions 39/2, 40/1, 41/1, 42/2, 43/1, 44/1, 45/1, 46/1, 48/1, 50/1, 52/1, 54/3, 56/1 and 58/1.
[11] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution I, annexes I and II.
[12] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.
[13] General Assembly resolution S-27/2, annex.
[14] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27 and Corr.1-E/CN.6/2005/11 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A; ibid., 2010, *Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2010/27 and Corr.1-E/CN.6/2010/11 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A; and ibid., 2015, *Supplement No. 7* (E/2015/27-E/CN.6/2015/10), chap. I, sect. C, resolution 59/1.

Recalling General Assembly resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003 on the prevention of armed conflict, and Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, 1828 (2008) of 31 July 2008, 1888 (2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889 (2009) of 5 October 2009, 1960 (2010) of 16 December 2010, 2106 (2013) of 24 June 2013, 2122 (2013) of 18 October 2013 and 2242 (2015) of 13 October 2015 on women, peace and security, as well as Council resolutions 1314 (2000) of 11 August 2000, 1379 (2001) of 20 November 2001, 1460 (2003) of 30 January 2003, 1539 (2004) of 22 April 2004, 1612 (2005) of 26 July 2005, 1882 (2009) of 4 August 2009, 1998 (2011) of 12 July 2011, 2068 (2012) of 19 September 2012, 2143 (2014) of 7 March 2014 and 2225 (2015) of 18 June 2015 on children and armed conflict, and Council resolutions 2133 (2014) of 27 January 2014, 2249 (2015) of 20 November 2015, 2253 (2015) of 17 December 2015 and 2255 (2015) of 21 December 2015 on kidnapping for ransom and hostage-taking by terrorists,

Expressing grave concern at the continuation of armed conflicts in many regions throughout the world and the human suffering and humanitarian emergencies they cause,

Noting the particular impact that trafficking in persons in situations of armed conflict has on women and children, including their increased vulnerability to sexual and gender-based violence, and expressing solidarity with and compassion for women and children who are trafficked, as noted in the statement of 16 December 2015 by the President of the Security Council, [15]

Noting also that women and children who are taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, including in armed conflicts, whether international or non-international, are victims of serious violations or abuses of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, which continues to have a negative impact on efforts to put an end to those conflicts and causes suffering to the families of those women and children, and stressing, in this regard, the need to address the issue from a humanitarian perspective, among others,

Emphasizing that all forms of violence in areas of armed conflict committed against the civilian population as such, including taking women and children hostage, seriously contravene international humanitarian law, in particular as set out in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,

Cognizant that States that are parties to an armed conflict have a responsibility not to take hostage and subsequently imprison women and children in armed conflicts and to ensure accountability as regards the implementation of relevant mechanisms, policies and laws in order to protect them, bearing in mind that all parties to a conflict must refrain from hostage-taking,

Concerned that, despite the efforts of the international community, acts of hostage-taking in different forms and manifestations, including those committed by terrorists and armed groups, continue to take place and have even increased in many regions of the world,

[15] S/PRST/2015/25.

Noting with concern the serious threats posed by transnational organized crime in some regions and its increasing links, in some cases, with terrorism, and strongly condemning the incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed for any purpose, including raising funds or gaining political concessions,

Recognizing that addressing the problem of hostage-taking calls for resolute, firm and concerted efforts on the part of the international community, in accordance with humanitarian law and international human rights law, in order to bring such abhorrent practices to an end and hold perpetrators accountable,

Expressing its strong belief that the rapid and unconditional release of women and children taken hostage in areas of armed conflict will promote the implementation of the noble goals enshrined in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on children, including the provisions therein regarding violence against women and children,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[16]

1. *Reaffirms* that hostage-taking, wherever and by whomever committed, is an illegal act aimed at the destruction of human rights and is, under any circumstances, unjustifiable;

2. *Condemns* all violent acts committed against the civilian population as such, in violation of international humanitarian law in situations of armed conflict, and calls for an effective response to such acts, in particular the immediate release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, including by strengthening international cooperation in the field;

3. *Also condemns* the acts committed in the context of hostage-taking, in particular torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, murder, rape, slavery and trafficking in women and children, and deplores their consequences;

4. *Urges* States that are parties to an armed conflict to take all measures necessary, in a timely manner, to determine the identity, fate and whereabouts of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, and to the greatest possible extent, to provide their family members, through the appropriate channels, with all relevant information they have on their fate and whereabouts;

5. *Invites* States, in this regard, to adopt a comprehensive approach, including all appropriate legal and practical measures and coordination mechanisms;

6. *Recognizes* the need for the collection, protection and management of information on women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, according to international and national legal norms and standards, and urges States to cooperate with each

[16] E/CN.6/2016/7.

other and with other appropriate actors working in this area by, inter alia, providing all relevant and appropriate information;

7. *Strongly urges* all parties to armed conflicts to respect fully the norms of international humanitarian law and to take all measures necessary for the protection of the civilian population as such, including measures to prevent and combat acts of hostage-taking;

8. *Urges* all parties to armed conflicts to provide safe, unimpeded access to humanitarian assistance for those women and children, in accordance with international humanitarian law;

9. *Also urges* all parties to armed conflicts to cooperate fully with the International Committee of the Red Cross and, where relevant, with national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, in establishing the fate and whereabouts of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned;

10. *Stresses* both the need for increased accountability and the responsibility of all States to prosecute or bring to justice, in accordance with international law, those responsible for war crimes, including hostage-taking and sexual violence;

11. *Also stresses* the need to address the issue of the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, also as part of peace processes, with reference to all justice and rule-of-law mechanisms, on the basis of transparency, accountability and public involvement and participation;

12. *Emphasizes* the importance of exchanging objective, reliable and impartial information, including through improved analysis and dissemination of data disaggregated by sex and age, on hostages, verifiable by relevant international organizations, in facilitating their release, and calls for assistance, as appropriate, to those organizations in this regard;

13. *Highlights* the importance of the rehabilitation of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, recognizing their particular vulnerability to violence, including sexual violence, in those situations, and urges the concerned States to take all measures practically possible to this end;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in the context of the present resolution, to continue to widely disseminate information, in particular relating to Security Council resolution 1325 (2000);

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General and all relevant international organizations to use their capabilities and undertake efforts to facilitate the immediate release of women and children who have been taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned;

16. *Invites* the Special Rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council, within their respective mandates, as well as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, to

continue to address the issue of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts and its consequences;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including relevant practical recommendations, taking into account the information provided by States and relevant international organizations;

18. *Decides* to consider the question at its sixty-second session.

Resolution 60/2
Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS*

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[1] and the outcomes of its reviews, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women,[2] the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[3] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[4] and the key actions for its further implementation and the outcomes of its reviews, the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[5] the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women;[6] the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS,[7] Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 on women and peace and security and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[8] including the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular the resolve of Member States to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030,

Noting with deep concern that the global HIV epidemic disproportionately affects women and girls and acknowledging the progress achieved in the realization of Goal 6 of the Millennium Development Goals, halting and reversing the spread of HIV where the global response to HIV has averted millions of new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths since 2000, when the Goals were set,

Recognizing the need to intensify efforts to end the AIDS epidemic through fast-tracking the HIV response across the prevention and treatment continuum, including in the context of the 90-90-90 targets of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and acknowledging the specific vulnerabilities of adolescent and young girls and women owing to, inter alia, unequal power relations in society between women and men, boys and girls,

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* For the discussion, see chap. III.

[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[3] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[4] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[6] General Assembly resolution 48/104.

[7] General Assembly resolution 65/277, annex.

[8] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

Acknowledging that prevention, treatment, care and support for people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS are mutually reinforcing elements of an effective response that must be integrated into a comprehensive multisectoral gender responsive approach to end the AIDS epidemic,

Noting with concern that regulations, policies and practices, including those that limit the legitimate trade in generic medicines, may seriously limit access to affordable HIV treatment and other pharmaceutical products in low- and middle-income countries, recognizing that improvements can be made, inter alia through national legislation, regulatory policy and supply chain management, and noting that reductions in barriers to affordable products could be explored in order to expand access to affordable and good-quality HIV prevention products, diagnostics, medicine and treatment commodities for HIV, including for opportunistic infections and co-infections,

Stressing that gender equality and the political, civil, social, economic and cultural empowerment of women and girls, as well as the full and equal enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, are fundamental in the eradication of poverty and the achievement of sustainable development,

Stressing also that the lack of protection and promotion of the human rights of all women and their sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences, and insufficient access to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, aggravates the impact of the AIDS epidemic especially among women and girls, increasing their vulnerability and endangering the survival of present and future generations,

Recognizing that children and adolescents are more likely to be lost to care and that those on antiretroviral medication are less likely than adults to reach viral load suppression and that there are many challenges in diagnosing and treating infants, children and adolescents,

Stressing the value and importance of social protection for the most vulnerable in achieving universal health coverage that comprises universal and equitable access to quality health services and ensures affordable and quality service delivery to people living with HIV, including women and children, and making sure that universal health coverage also promotes HIV/AIDS responses,

Recognizing that over 13.3 million children have lost one or two parents to HIV and AIDS and that those children have complex needs pertaining to protection, care and support and that they may be at increased risk of infection, as well as at increased risk of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of Member States and the United Nations system to end all forms of violence against women and children, in particular the girl child, including the Secretary General's campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" and the "HeForShe" campaign,

Deeply concerned that all forms of violence against women and girls, discrimination and harmful practices are among key contributing factors to the spread of HIV among women and girls,

Deeply concerned also by the increased vulnerability to HIV infection faced by women and girls living with disabilities resulting from, inter alia, legal and economic inequalities, sexual and gender-based violence, discrimination and violations of their rights,

Noting with concern that populations destabilized by armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, internally displaced persons, refugees and, in particular, women and children, especially girls, are at increased risk of HIV infection,

Recognizing that women and girls are more vulnerable to HIV infection and that they bear a disproportionate burden of the impact of the HIV and AIDS epidemic, including the care of and support for those living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, and that this negatively affects the enjoyment of their human rights, including the right to health,

Recognizing also that access to quality education and information and the retention of girls in school are critical elements in the prevention of HIV infection among women and girls,

Acknowledging the leadership of governments, in cooperation with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other specialized agencies of the United Nations, the international donor community and financing mechanisms, including the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, in increasing domestic and international resources to support programmes that promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls to address HIV and AIDS,

Welcoming the leadership and commitment shown in all aspects of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, including in the HIV and AIDS response, by governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and people living with HIV, including through the African Union road map on shared responsibility and global solidarity for AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria response in Africa,

1. *Calls upon* governments, international partners and civil society to give full attention to the high levels of new HIV infections among young women and adolescent girls and its root causes, bearing in mind that women and girls are physiologically more vulnerable to HIV, especially at an earlier age, than men and boys, and that this is increased by discrimination and all forms of violence against women, girls and adolescents, including sexual exploitation and harmful practices;

2. *Calls upon* Member States to intensify efforts to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in all spheres of life, recognizing that structural gender inequalities, discrimination, violence against women and girls and harmful masculinities undermine effective HIV responses and the full and equal enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls;

3. *Calls upon* all governments to enact and intensify the implementation of laws, policies and strategies to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination against women and girls in the public and private spheres and harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation and trafficking in persons, and ensure the full engagement of men and boys in order to reduce the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV;

4. *Also calls* upon all governments to intensify efforts to reduce the particularly high levels of HIV infection among women and girls, who epidemiological evidence shows are at higher risk, by reducing barriers to their participation in HIV prevention and care, where possible, as well as removing barriers to their full participation in society, and by addressing practices such as trafficking in persons that contribute to HIV risk and the social marginalization of women and girls;

5. *Further calls upon* all governments to ensure a just and equitable world for women and girls, including through partnering with men and boys, as an important strategy for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

6. *Calls upon* all governments to promote universal health coverage, as part of a comprehensive social protection package, which implies that all people have equal access, without discrimination of any kind, to nationally determined sets of the quality promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative basic health services needed and to essential, safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines, especially through the promotion of primary health care, while ensuring that the use of those services does not expose the users to financial hardship, with a specific emphasis on women, children and the poor, vulnerable and marginalized segments of the population;

7. *Urges* Member States to adopt and implement measures that promote access to, retention in and completion of education by girls, including catch-up and literacy education for those who did not receive formal education, special initiatives for keeping girls in school through post-primary education, including those who are already married or pregnant, or caring for people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS, and adopt social protection measures as protective strategies to reduce new HIV infections among young women and girls;

8. *Calls upon* Member States to address gender-based HIV-related stigma and discrimination against and among women and girls, so as to ensure the dignity, rights and privacy of women and girls living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, including in education, training and informal education and the workplace;

9. *Urges* governments to eliminate gender inequalities and gender-based abuse and violence, increase the capacity of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection, principally through the provision of health care and services, including, inter alia, sexual and reproductive health care, as well as full access to comprehensive information and education, ensure that women can exercise their right to have control over, and decide freely and responsibly on, matters related to their sexuality,

including their sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence, in order to increase their ability to protect themselves from HIV infection, and take all necessary measures to create an enabling environment for the empowerment of women and strengthen their economic independence and, in that context, reiterates the importance of the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality;

10. *Calls upon* Member States to recognize women's contribution to the economy and their active participation in caring for people living with HIV and AIDS and recognize, redistribute and value women's unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure, the promotion of equal sharing of responsibilities with men and boys, and social protection targeted at women and girls who are vulnerable;

11. *Calls upon* governments to accelerate efforts to scale up scientifically accurate age-appropriate comprehensive education, relevant to cultural contexts, that provides adolescent girls and boys and young women and men, in and out of school, consistent with their evolving capacities, with information on sexual and reproductive health and HIV prevention, gender equality and women's empowerment, human rights, physical, psychological and pubertal development and power in relationships between women and men, to enable them to build self-esteem, informed decision-making, communication and risk reduction skills and develop respectful relationships, in full partnership with young persons, parents, legal guardians, caregivers, educators and health-care providers, in order to enable them to protect themselves from HIV infection;

12. *Also calls upon* governments to take concrete long-term measures to achieve universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention, programmes, treatment, care and support for all women and girls and to remove all barriers to achieving universal health coverage and improve access to integrated sexual reproductive health-care services, information, voluntary counselling and testing and commodities, while building the capacity of adolescent girls and boys, young women and men to protect themselves from HIV infection and enabling their use of available commodities, including female and male condoms, post-exposure prophylaxis and pre-exposure prophylaxis, while seeking to avoid risk-taking behaviour and encouraging responsible sexual behaviour;

13. *Urges* governments to commit to remove before 2030, obstacles that limit the capacity of low- and middle-income countries to provide affordable and effective HIV prevention and treatment products, diagnostics, medicines and commodities and other pharmaceutical products, as well as treatment for opportunistic infections and co-infections, and to reduce the costs associated with lifelong chronic care, including by amending national laws and regulations, so as to:

(a) Optimize the use to the full extent of existing flexibilities under the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights specifically geared to promoting access to and trade in medicines and, while recognizing the importance of the intellectual property rights regime in contributing to a more effective AIDS response, ensure that intellectual property rights provisions in trade agreements do not undermine those existing flexibilities, as confirmed in

the Doha Declaration on the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and Public Health, and call for early acceptance of the amendment to article 31 of the Agreement adopted by the General Council of the World Trade Organization in its decision of 6 December 2005;

(b) Address barriers, regulations, policies and practices that prevent access to affordable HIV treatment by promoting generic competition, in order to help to reduce the costs associated with lifelong chronic care and by encouraging all States to apply measures and procedures for enforcing intellectual property rights in such a manner as to avoid creating barriers to the legitimate trade in medicines and to provide for safeguards against the abuse of such measures and procedures;

(c) Encourage the voluntary use, where appropriate, of new mechanisms such as partnerships, tiered pricing, open-source sharing of patents and patent pools benefiting all developing countries, including through entities such as the Medicines Patent Pool, to help to reduce treatment costs and encourage development of new HIV treatment formulations, including HIV medicines and point-of-care diagnostics, in particular for children;

14. *Calls upon* governments and stakeholders to uphold commitments to eliminate mother-to-child transmission and keep mothers alive, including through integrating HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, including confidential voluntary counselling and testing and elimination of mother-to-child/vertical transmission, with other primary health-care services, especially sexual and reproductive health-care services, and through means to prevent new infections among women and adolescent girls of reproductive age and the provision of sexual and reproductive health-care services and lifelong antiretroviral medication for women and girls living with HIV;

15. *Also calls upon* governments and stakeholders to intensify combination prevention initiatives for women and girls for the prevention of new infections and to reverse the spread of HIV and reduce maternal mortality;

16. *Urges* governments and stakeholders to address the increased vulnerability to HIV faced by older women and women and girls with disabilities, ensuring their equal access to prevention, treatment, care and support, as an integral part of their HIV and AIDS response;

17. *Stresses* the importance of governments, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes in developing and implementing strategies to improve infant HIV diagnosis, including through access to diagnostics at the point of care, significantly increasing and improving access to treatment for children and adolescents living with HIV, including access to prophylaxis and treatments for opportunistic infections, and promoting a smooth transition from paediatric to adult treatment and related support and services, while taking into account the need to put in place programmes focused on delivering services to HIV-negative children born to women living with HIV, as they are still at high risk of morbidity and mortality, and developing actions to limit post-delivery transmission through breastfeeding through the provision of information and education;

18. *Calls upon* governments and stakeholders to prioritize gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in all policies and programmes related to populations destabilized by armed conflict, including refugees, internally displaced persons and, in particular, women and children, who are at increased risk of HIV infection;

19. *Urges* governments to increase political commitment and domestic financing to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls through national HIV and AIDS responses targeting women and girls that respect, promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms for women and girls, including in the context of the HIV epidemic, and promote equal economic opportunities and decent work for women and girls;

20. *Also urges* governments to promote the active and meaningful participation, contribution and leadership of women and girls living with HIV, civil society actors, the private sector, youth and young men and women's organizations, in addressing the problem of HIV and AIDS in all its aspects, including promoting a gender-responsive approach to the national response;

21. *Requests* governments, the private sector, the international donor community and funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations to intensify financial and technical support for national efforts to end AIDS and achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, focused on women and girls affected by the HIV and AIDS epidemic, and also to intensify financial and technical support for mainstreaming gender and human rights perspectives in policies, planning, programmes, monitoring and evaluation;

22. *Requests* governments to make available comprehensive data disaggregated by age, sex and other characteristics relevant in national contexts to inform targeted responses to the gender dimensions of HIV and AIDS;

23. *Stresses* the importance of building up national competence and capacity to provide an assessment of the drivers and impact of the epidemic, which should be used in HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support and for mitigating the impact of HIV and AIDS;

24. *Encourages* the international community and research institutions to support action-oriented research on gender and HIV and AIDS including on female-controlled prevention commodities;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution to the sixty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Decision 60/101
Documents considered by the Commission on the Status of Women*

5. At its 14th and 15th meetings, on 24 March, the Commission on the Status of Women decided to take note of the following documents and to bring to the attention of the Economic and Social Council the Chairs' summaries of the four ministerial round tables, the ministerial dialogue and the two expert panel

* For the discussion, see chap. III and chap. V.

discussions on the priority theme:

Under agenda item 3

Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the normative aspects of the work of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women;[1]

Report of the Secretary-General on women's empowerment and the links to sustainable development;[2]

Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the implementation of the agreed conclusions from the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women;[3]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women;[4]

Report of the Secretary-General on women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS;[5]

Report of the Secretary-General on proposals for priority themes for future sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women;[6]

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its fifty-eighth, fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions;[7]

Note by the Secretariat on the results of the sixty-first and sixty-second sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;[8]

Chair's summary of the ministerial round table on enhancing national institutional arrangements for gender equality and women's empowerment;[9]

Chair's summary of the ministerial round table on strengthening normative, legal and policy frameworks for gender equality and women's empowerment;[10]

Chair's summary of the ministerial round table on financing for gender equality and women's empowerment in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[11]

Chair's summary of the ministerial round table on fostering gender-responsive data design, collection and analysis, and building the knowledge base;[12]

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[1] E/CN.6/2016/2.
[2] E/CN.6/2016/3.
[3] E/CN.6/2016/4.
[4] A/HRC/32/3-E/CN.6/2016/8.
[5] E/CN.6/2016/9.
[6] E/CN.6/2016/10.
[7] A/70/38.
[8] E/CN.6/2016/13.
[9] E/CN.6/2016/14.
[10] E/CN.6/2016/15.
[11] E/CN.6/2016/16.
[12] E/CN.6/2016/17.

Chair's summary of the interactive dialogue among ministers on building alliances for gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[13]

Chair's summary of a panel discussion on the priority theme of women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development on the sub-topic of key strategies for gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[14]

Chair's summary of a panel discussion on the priority theme of women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development on the sub-topic of participation and partnerships for gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[15]

Chair's summary of the discussions on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century".[16]

Under agenda item 5

Letter dated 8 December 2015 from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women;[17]

Note by the Secretariat on the contribution by the Commission on the Status of Women to the work of the Economic and Social Council.[18]

[13] E/CN.6/2016/18.
[14] E/CN.6/2016/19.
[15] E/CN.6/2016/20.
[16] E/CN.6/2016/21.
[17] E/CN.6/2016/11.
[18] E/CN.6/2016/12.

Chapter II
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

6. The Commission considered agenda item 2 at its 2nd and 14th meetings, on 14 and 24 March. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work (E/CN.6/2016/1);

(b) Proposed organization of work (E/CN.6/2016/1/Add.1).

7. At its 2nd meeting, on 14 March, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda and approved its organization of work (see chap. VIII, sect. D), on the understanding that further adjustments would be made, as necessary, during the course of the session.

Action taken by the Commission

8. At its 14th meeting, on 24 March, the Commission had before it a draft resolution entitled "Multi-year programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women" (E/CN.6/2016/L.6), submitted by the Chair of the Commission, Antonio de Aguiar Patriota (Brazil), on the basis of informal consultations.

9. At the same meeting, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

10. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for its adoption (see chap. I, sect. B, draft resolution I).

Chapter III

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

11. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 2nd to 14th meetings, from 14 to 24 March 2016. It held general discussions at its 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 11th, 12th and 13th meetings. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the normative aspects of the work of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (E/CN.6/2016/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on women's empowerment and the links to sustainable development (E/CN.6/2016/3);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the implementation of the agreed conclusions from the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2016/4);

(d) Note by the Secretariat on the discussion guide for the ministerial round tables to be held under the priority theme "Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development" (E/CN.6/2016/5);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (E/CN.6/2016/6);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts (E/CN.6/2016/7);

(g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women (A/HRC/32/3-E/CN.6/2016/8);

(h) Report of the Secretary-General on women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS (E/CN.6/2016/9);

(i) Report of the Secretary-General on proposals for priority themes for future sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2016/10);

(j) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its fifty-eighth, fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions (A/70/38);

(k) Note by the Secretariat on the results of the sixty-first and sixty-second sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/CN.6/2016/13);

(l) Statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2016/NGO/1-179).

12. At the 2nd meeting, on 14 March, the President of the General Assembly at its seventieth session, Mogens Lykketoft (Denmark), and the Secretary-General addressed the Commission.

13. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council, Jürg Lauber (Switzerland).

14. Also at the same meeting, introductory statements were made by the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences.

15. Also at the 2nd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Republic of Tanzania (on behalf of the African Group), the Dominican Republic (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States) and Guyana (on behalf of the Caribbean Community).

16. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers of Thailand (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union), Viet Nam (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), Honduras (also on behalf of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama and the Dominican Republic, comprising the Central American Integration System), Slovenia (also on behalf of Austria, Chile, Costa Rica, Greece, Ireland, Jordan, Mali, Norway, Panama, Switzerland, South Africa and Thailand, comprising the Human Security Network), Nauru (on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States), the Gambia, Nepal, Kazakhstan and Denmark.

17. At the 4th meeting, on 15 March, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Israel, the Republic of Korea, Brazil, Cuba, Paraguay and Belgium.

18. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers of Botswana (on behalf of the Southern African Development Community), Papua New Guinea (on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum), Canada, Morocco, Angola, Slovenia, Luxembourg, Peru, Poland, Kuwait, Iceland, Austria, Mozambique, South Africa, Bahrain, Côte d'Ivoire, Norway, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Costa Rica, Madagascar, Mali, Latvia, Sweden and Nigeria.

19. At the 5th meeting, on 15 March, statements were made by the representatives of Indonesia, Malawi, India, Liberia, Ghana, the Dominican Republic, Mongolia, El Salvador, Kenya, Liechtenstein, China and Uganda.

20. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers of the Philippines, Tunisia, Trinidad and Tobago, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Guinea, Honduras, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Viet Nam, Estonia, the United Arab Emirates, France, Jordan, Afghanistan, Suriname, Zambia, Mauritius, the Republic of Moldova, Sri Lanka, Mauritania and South Sudan.

21. At the 6th meeting, on 15 March, statements were made by the representatives of the United Republic of Tanzania, Pakistan, Egypt, Switzerland, the Russian Federation, the Congo and Spain.

22. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers of Botswana, Ethiopia, Cambodia, Mexico, Argentina, Turkmenistan, Hungary, Bahamas, Chile,

the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ukraine, Portugal, Tonga and Solomon Islands.

23. At the 7th meeting, on 16 March, statements were made by the representatives of El Salvador (also on behalf of Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Slovenia, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey and Uruguay, comprising the Group of Friends of Older Persons), Burkina Faso, Germany and Finland.

24. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Kuwait, the Netherlands and Nicaragua.

25. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observer of the State of Palestine.

26. Also at the 7th meeting, the representative of Israel made a statement in exercise of the right of reply.

27. At the 11th meeting, on 18 March, statements were made by the representatives of the Niger, Lesotho, Colombia, Uruguay, Ecuador and the Sudan.

28. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers of Romania, Sierra Leone, Georgia, Australia, Greece, Malaysia, Burundi, Italy, New Zealand, Samoa, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Eritrea, the Marshall Islands, Slovakia, Turkey, Panama, Seychelles, Rwanda, Malta, Lebanon, Libya, Maldives, Cameroon and Cyprus.

29. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

30. At the 12th meeting, on 18 March, statements were made by the representatives of Iran (Islamic Republic of), Tajikistan and the United States of America.

31. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers of Armenia, Bulgaria, Myanmar, Cabo Verde, Jamaica, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Croatia, Iraq, Andorra, Ireland, Togo, Tuvalu and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

32. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the observer of the Holy See.

33. Also at the 12th meeting, statements were made by the observers of the League of Arab States, the African Union, the International Olympic Committee and the International Development Law Organization.

34. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the World Health Organization and the Economic Commission for Africa (also on behalf of the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia).

35. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: International Association for Media and Communication Research, Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer, International Trade Union Confederation, the Presbyterian Church, the International Federation for Home Economics, Women for Women's Human Rights: New Ways, Association for

Women's Rights in Development, Widows for Peace through Democracy and the Pacific Disability Forum.

36. At the 13th meeting, on 23 March, statements were made by the representatives of Albania and Bangladesh.

37. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers of Senegal, Barbados, Guatemala, Algeria, Benin, Kiribati and Fiji.

38. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers of the Union for the Mediterranean, the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

39. Also at the 13th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the International Trade Centre, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the International Labour Organization.

40. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: ACT Alliance, Amnesty International, Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women, Baha'i International Community, the Center for Reproductive Rights, Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, International Federation of Medical Students' Associations, International Association of Democratic Lawyers, International Federation of University Women, International Planned Parenthood Federation, International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific, Solar Cookers International, United Nations Association of the United States of America, Centro Regional de Derechos Humanos y Justicia de Género, Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, World Young Women's Christian Association and The Grail.

A. Agenda item 3 (a) (i)
Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: priority theme: women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development*

1. Ministerial segment: parallel ministerial round tables

41. At its 3rd meeting, on 14 March, under the ministerial segment, the Commission held four ministerial round tables in parallel meetings on the priority theme "Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development".

Round table A: enhancing national institutional arrangements for gender equality and women's empowerment

42. Ministerial round table A was chaired by the State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Yoji Muto, who made an opening statement.

43. The Special Envoy for Gender Equality of the African Development Bank, Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, served as moderator.

* See the Chairs' summaries of the ministerial round tables (E/CN.6/2016/14-17) and the Chairs' summaries of the panel discussions (E/CN.6/2016/19 and 20).

44. The representatives of the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Ghana and the Dominican Republic took part in the ensuing interactive dialogue.

45. The observers of Sweden, India, Mexico, Poland, the Gambia, Hungary, Jordan, Peru, the Czech Republic, Sri Lanka, Morocco, Argentina, Nepal, Estonia, Denmark, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Côte d'Ivoire, Angola, Cambodia, Zambia, Georgia and Costa Rica also took part, as did the observer of the State of Palestine.

Round table B: strengthening normative, legal and policy frameworks for gender equality and women's empowerment

46. Ministerial round table B was chaired by the Secretary of Policies for Women's Work and Economic Autonomy of Brazil, Tatau Godinho, who made an opening statement.

47. The Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, David Nabarro, served as moderator.

48. The representatives of Japan, the Niger, Belgium, Ecuador, the Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, Pakistan, Egypt, Colombia and Spain took part in the ensuing interactive dialogue.

49. The observers of Mozambique, Nigeria, Austria, Luxembourg, Chile, France, Norway, Honduras, Lithuania, Slovenia, Portugal, Greece, Burundi, Samoa and Turkey also took part, as did the observer of the European Union.

50. The Assistant Secretary-General/Deputy Executive Director, Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships Bureau, UN-Women, made a statement.

Round table C: Financing for gender equality and women's empowerment in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

51. Ministerial round table C was chaired by the President of the National Council for Women of Egypt, Maya Morsy, who made an opening statement.

52. The Secretary-General of the Ibero-American Conference, Rebecca Grynspan, served as moderator.

53. The representatives of Indonesia, Burkina Faso, Belarus, Paraguay, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi and the Sudan took part in the ensuing interactive dialogue.

54. The observers of Canada, Italy, the United Kingdom, Ukraine, the Philippines, Guinea, South Africa, South Sudan, Tunisia, Botswana, Namibia, Mali, Iraq and Zimbabwe also took part.

Round table D: Fostering gender-responsive data design, collection and analysis, and building the knowledge base

55. Ministerial round table D was chaired by the Parliamentary State Secretary for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth of Germany, Elke Ferner, who made an opening statement.

56. The National Statistician and Civil Registrar General of the Philippines, Lisa Grace Bersales, served as moderator.

57. The representatives of China, Cuba, the Congo, Switzerland, Uruguay, Uganda, Finland and Egypt took part in the ensuing interactive dialogue.

58. The observers of South Sudan, Mauritania, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Eritrea, Canada and Senegal also took part.

59. The Assistant Secretary-General/Deputy Executive Director, Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships Bureau, UN-Women, made a statement.

2. Ministerial segment: panel discussion on key strategies for gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

60. At its 8th meeting, on 16 March, under the ministerial segment, the Commission held a panel discussion on key strategies for gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was chaired and moderated by the Vice-Chair of the Commission (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

61. Following an opening statement by the Chair/moderator, presentations were made by the following panellists: economist and current Director for Social Development of the National Planning Department, Colombia, Alejandra Corchuelo; the Andrew Glyn Professor of Economics, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, James Heintz; the Government Statistician and Chief Executive of the Ghana Statistical Service, Philomena Efua Nyarko; the Director of Regions Refocus, Anita Nayar; and the Principal Sector Specialist for Gender Equality of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia, Sally Moyle.

62. The representatives of Switzerland, Uganda, China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Indonesia and Japan took part.

63. The observers of Italy, Nigeria and Rwanda also took part, as did the observer of the European Union.

64. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council also took part in the discussion: Centre for Environment Education Society, Soroptimist International and International Trade Union Confederation.

3. Panel discussion on participation and partnerships for gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

65. At its 9th meeting, on 17 March, the Commission held a panel discussion on participation and partnerships for gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was chaired and moderated by the Vice-Chair of the Commission (Japan).

66. Following an opening statement by the Chair/moderator, presentations were made by the following panellists: a Member of the Parliament of Tunisia, Olfa Soukri Cherif; the Mayor of Kingston, Jamaica, Angela Brown-Burke; the Chief Counsellor for Social Issues and Director of Gender of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Michaela Bergman; the Chair of the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET), Emma Kaliya; and the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

67. The representatives of Switzerland, Uganda, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Egypt, the Niger, Japan and the Sudan took part in the ensuing discussion.

68. The observers of Italy, Norway, Estonia, Tunisia, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad, Honduras, Mexico and South Sudan also took part, as did the observer of the European Union.

69. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council also participated in the discussion: Federación Española de Mujeres Directivas, Ejecutivas, Profesionales y Empresarias; Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women; Egyptian Center for Women's Rights; Education International; and Centro Regional de Derechos Humanos y Justicia de Género.

B. Agenda item 3 (a) (ii)
Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: review theme: the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls**

1. Ministerial segment: national voluntary presentations

70. At its 4th and 5th meetings, on 15 March, under the ministerial segment, the Commission heard national voluntary presentations on the review theme, "The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women", which were held in parallel with the general discussions.

71. At its 4th meeting, the Vice-Chair of the Commission (Germany) made opening remarks.

72. At the same meeting, the Assistant Secretary-General/Deputy Executive Director, Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships Bureau, UN-Women, presented the findings from the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-seventh session (E/CN.6/2016/4).

73. At the 5th meeting, the Vice-Chair of the Commission (Egypt) made opening remarks.

National voluntary presentations by Brazil, China and Turkey

74. At its 4th meeting, presentations were made by the Secretary of Policies for Women's Work and Economic Autonomy, Brazil, Tatau Godinho; a representative of the National Council for the Rights of Women, Brazil, Mara Luzia Feltes, Brazil; the Vice-Chair of the National Working Committee on Children and Women, China, Meng Xiaosi; the Deputy Director General of the Legal Department, All China Women's Federation, China, Lan Qing; the Minister of Family and Social Policy, Turkey, Sema Ramazanoğlu; and the Director General, General Directorate on the Status of Women, Ministry of Family and Social Policies, Turkey, Gülser Ustaoğlu.

** See the Chair's summaries of the national voluntary presentations and the panel discussion (E/CN.6/2016/21) and of the interactive dialogue with ministers (E/CN.6/2016/18), available from the website of the Commission.

75. The representatives of the United States, India, Switzerland, Indonesia and Belgium took part in the ensuing interactive dialogue.

76. The observers of Nepal and the Philippines also took part.

National voluntary presentations by Egypt, Japan and Estonia

77. At the same meeting, presentations were made by the President of the National Council for Women of Egypt, Maya Morsy; the State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Japan, Yoji Muto; the Professor Emeritus of Gender Studies and Principal, Jumonji University, Japan, Hiroko Hashimoto; the Minister of Social Protection, Estonia, Margus Tsahkna; and the Head of the Equality Policies Department, Ministry of Social Affairs, Estonia, Katri Eespere.

78. The representatives of Spain and Egypt took part in the ensuing interactive dialogue.

79. The observer of the Philippines also took part.

80. The representative of the Association nigérienne des scouts de l'environnement, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, also took part in the dialogue.

National voluntary presentations by Costa Rica and Romania

81. At its 5th meeting, presentations were made by the Minister of Women's Condition, Costa Rica, Alejandra Mora Mora; the Head of the National Agency for Gender Equality, Romania, Ioana Liana Cazacu; and the national coordinator of activities related to domestic violence in Romania, Adrian Chesnoiu.

82. The representatives of Colombia, Pakistan, Uganda, the Dominican Republic, Bangladesh and Egypt took part in the ensuing interactive dialogue.

83. The observers for Senegal and the Gambia also took part.

National voluntary presentations by Sweden and Tunisia

84. At the same meeting, presentations were made by the Minister for Children, the Elderly and Gender Equality, Sweden, Åsa Regnér; specialist in clinical psychology and Director of Alternative to Violence, Marius Råkil; the Secretary-General of Unizon (association of women's shelters and young women's empowerment centres), Sweden, Olga Persson; the Minister for Women, Family and Children, Tunisia, Samira Merai Friâa; and the Director General of the Centre for Research, Studies, Documentation and Information on Women, Tunisia, Dalenda Larguèche.

85. The representative of Ecuador took part in the ensuing interactive dialogue.

86. The observer of the United Kingdom also took part.

87. The representative of the International Association of Women in Radio and Television, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, also took part in the dialogue.

88. Also at the same meeting, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of India, Finland and the Republic of Korea and by the observers of Morocco, Georgia, Argentina, Eritrea, Slovakia, Mexico and the United Kingdom on lessons learned and best practices in the implementation of the review theme.

Ministerial segment: interactive dialogue with ministers on building alliances for gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

89. At its 7th meeting, on 16 March, under the ministerial segment, the Commission held an interactive dialogue with ministers on building alliances for gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, chaired by the Secretary of Policies for Women's Work and Economic Autonomy of Brazil, Tatau Godinho, and moderated by the Chair of the Commission.

90. The representatives of the Republic of Korea, Uganda, Indonesia, Colombia, Liechtenstein, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Egypt, Liberia, Japan and Pakistan took part in the ensuing interactive dialogue.

91. The observers of Norway, South Sudan, Poland, Jordan, France, Argentina, Portugal, South Africa, Mexico and Ecuador also took part.

92. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council also participated in the dialogue: Centro de Culturas Indígenas del Perú, Sveriges Kvinnolobby, Association of War-Affected Women, Bahrain Women Society, International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific, Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer, Center for Women's Global Leadership, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, Women against Violence (Europe) and International Alliance of Women.

2. Panel discussion on addressing data gaps and methodology issues

93. At its 10th meeting, on 17 March, the Commission held a panel discussion on addressing data gaps and methodology issues, moderated by the Vice-Chair of the Commission (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

94. Following a statement by the moderator, presentations were made by the following panellists: the Chief of the Social and Housing Statistics Section, Statistics Division; a researcher at the Regional Center for Multidisciplinary Studies, National Autonomous University, Mexico, Irene Casique Rodríguez; and the Chief Expert of the Division of Social and Demographic Statistics of the Committee for Statistics, Ministry of National Economy, Kazakhstan, Ainur Dossanova.

95. The representatives of Switzerland, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Japan and the United States took part in the ensuing discussion.

96. The observers of Chad, Morocco, Italy, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Philippines, Mexico, South Sudan and the Lao People's Democratic Republic also took part, as did the observer of the European Union.

97. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council also took part in the discussion: HelpAge International, Amnesty International and the Global Vision India Foundation.

98. The Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences made a statement.

C. Action taken by the Commission

1. Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

99. At the 13th meeting, on 23 March, the observer of Thailand, on behalf of the States that are members of the Group of 77 and China, taking into account also the provisions of General Assembly resolution 52/250 of 7 July 1998, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women" (E/CN.6/2016/L.3).

100. At the 14th meeting, on 24 March, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

101. At the same meeting, Turkey joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

102. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution by a recorded vote of 20 to 2, with 11 abstentions, and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for its final adoption (see chap. I, sect. B, draft resolution II). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Bangladesh, Belarus, Brazil, China, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Russian Federation, Sudan, Tajikistan, Uruguay.

Against:

Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Finland, Germany, Japan, Liechtenstein, Republic of Korea, Spain, Switzerland.

103. Before the vote, statements were made by the representatives of Israel, Finland (also on behalf of the Member States of the European Union), Kazakhstan, Indonesia and Switzerland.

104. After the vote, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America and Japan.

105. After the vote, a statement was also made by the observer of the State of Palestine.

2. Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts

106. At the 14th meeting, on 24 March, the Commission had before it a draft resolution entitled "Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts" (E/CN.6/2016/L.4), submitted by Argentina,* Azerbaijan,* Belarus, Georgia,* Turkey* and the United States of America.

107. At the same meeting, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

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* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

108. Also at the same meeting, the observer of Azerbaijan, also on behalf of Argentina, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Turkey and the United States of America, made a statement and announced that Armenia and Ukraine had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

109. Also at the 14th meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, section D, resolution 60/1).

3. Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS

110. At the 15th meeting, on 24 March, the Commission had before it a draft resolution entitled "Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS" (E/CN.6/2016/L.5), submitted by Botswana,* on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Southern African Development Community.

111. At the same meeting, the observer of Botswana made a statement and orally revised the draft resolution.

112. Also at the same meeting, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution, as orally revised, contained no programme budget implications.

113. Also at the 15th meeting, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Liberia, the Philippines, Thailand and Uganda joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, as orally revised.

114. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see chap. I, section D, resolution 60/2).

115. After the adoption, statements were made by the representatives of the United States, the Sudan (also on behalf of Algeria, Belarus, Libya, the Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Yemen), Finland (on behalf of the European Union), the Islamic Republic of Iran and Liechtenstein (also on behalf of Australia, Iceland, New Zealand and Norway) and by the observer of Mauritania.

116. The observer of the Holy See also made a statement.

4. Agreed conclusions on women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development

117. At the 15th meeting, on 24 March, the Commission had before it the draft agreed conclusions entitled "Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development", as contained in an informal paper and submitted by the Chair of the Commission, on the basis of informal consultations.

118. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the agreed conclusions and decided to transmit them to the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 68/1 of 20 September 2013 and 70/1 of 21 October 2015 (see chap. I, sect. A).

119. After the adoption, statements were made by the representatives of the United States, Finland (on behalf of the European Union), Egypt (on behalf of the African Group), the Sudan (also on behalf of Libya, the Niger and Nigeria), the Islamic Republic of Iran and Colombia and by the observers of Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago (also on behalf of Guyana and Nicaragua), Turkey, Canada (also on behalf of Australia, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) and Mauritania.

120. The observer of the Holy See also made a statement.

5. Documents considered by the Commission on the Status of Women

121. At its 15th meeting, on 24 March, the Commission decided to take note of a number of documents before it under agenda items 3 and 5 (see chap. I, sect. D, decision 60/101).

Chapter IV
Communications concerning the status of women

122. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 13th (closed) meeting, on 23 March. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women (see para. 124 below);[1]

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of confidential communications and replies by governments concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2016/R.1 and Add.1).

Action taken by the Commission
Report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women

123. At its 13th meeting (closed), on 23 March, the Commission considered the report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women.[1]

124. At the same meeting (closed), the Commission decided to take note of the report of the Working Group and to incorporate it in the report of the Commission on its sixtieth session. The report of the Working Group read as follows:

1. The Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women met in closed meetings before the sixtieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2002/235 and was guided in its deliberations by the mandate given to it by the Council in its resolution 76 (V), as amended by the Council in its resolutions 304 I (XI), 1983/27, 1992/19, 1993/11 and 2009/16.

2. The Working Group considered the list of confidential communications and the replies by Governments thereon (E/CN.6/2016/R.1 and Add.1). There was no list of non-confidential communications concerning the status of women, no such communications having been received by the Secretary-General.

3. The Working Group considered the 66 confidential communications, addressed to 49 States, received directly by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. The Working Group noted that no confidential communications concerning the status of women had been received from other United Nations bodies or the specialized agencies.

4. The Working Group noted that there were 28 replies from 21 Governments.

5. The Working Group recalled its mandate as defined in paragraph 4 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27, which stated that the Working Group should perform the following functions:

(a) Consideration of all communications, including the replies of Governments thereon, if any, with a view to bringing to the attention of the

[1] The report was also circulated internally under document symbol E/CN.6/2015/R.2.

Commission those communications, including the replies of Governments, which appeared to reveal a consistent pattern of reliably attested injustice and discriminatory practices against women;

(b) Preparation of a report, based on its analysis of the confidential and non-confidential communications, which would indicate the categories in which communications were most frequently submitted to the Commission.

6. The Working Group noted that a number of communications of a general nature had been submitted, as had communications alleging specific cases of discrimination against individual women and girls.

7. The Working Group discerned the following categories in which communications had most frequently been submitted to the Commission:

(a) Sexual violence against women and girls, including rape and rape within the family, sexual abuse, including sexual abuse of minors and incest, and sexual harassment, including in the workplace and in schools and universities, committed by private individuals and military and law enforcement personnel;

(b) Other forms of violence against women and girls, including targeted killings of women, such as so-called "honour" killings, domestic violence, physical assault, harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation and child and forced marriage, abduction for the purpose of marriage, forced sterilization, including of HIV-positive women, sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation;

(c) Abuse of power by law enforcement officials and military personnel, lack of due process and delays in proceedings, arbitrary arrest and detention and failure to grant a fair trial and prevent impunity;

(d) Pressure exerted on victims of violence and their fear of reporting cases due to anticipated stigma and reprisals from family, the community and employers, often preventing them from filing complaints;

(e) Inadequate conditions for women in detention and penitentiary systems and degrading treatment and torture of and physical and sexual violence against those women;

(f) Serious and systematic violations of the human rights of women and girls, some of which target vulnerable and marginalized groups, including discrimination, harassment, degrading treatment and sexual violence;

(g) Intimidation, harassment, including judicial and sexual harassment, and detention of and violence and sexual violence against women human rights defenders as a means of exerting pressure on them to stop their activities;

(h) Violations of the right to health, including sexual and reproductive health, and reproductive rights as stipulated in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, of women and girls, including in detention, and restricted access to health-care services;

(i) Discrimination against women resulting in the loss of child custody to abusive fathers;

(j) Inadequate institutions, and implementation and/or enforcement of laws aimed at promoting and protecting women's human rights that is ineffective or lacking;

(k) Legislation, policies and/or stereotypical practices and attitudes that discriminate against women in the areas of:

(i) Civil and political rights, including freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of movement, and participation in decision-making processes and in public life on an equal basis with men;

(ii) Economic, social and cultural rights;

(iii) Right to property and inheritance;

(iv) Personal status, nationality, citizenship, family, marriage and divorce;

(v) Employment;

(vi) Taxation and austerity policies;

(vii) Education;

(viii) Health care;

(ix) Access to justice;

(x) Penal codes and punishment for rape and abduction;

(l) Failure by States, potentially leading to revictimization, to:

(i) Combat stereotypes of women and exercise due diligence to prevent violence and discrimination against women and girls;

(ii) Investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators adequately and in a timely manner, resulting in impunity;

(iii) Provide adequate protection and support for victims;

(iv) Ensure access to justice.

8. During its consideration of all communications, including the replies of Governments thereon, and its consideration of the question of whether any of those appeared to reveal a consistent pattern of reliably attested injustice and discriminatory practices against women, the Working Group expressed its concern about:

(a) Violence against women and girls, including torture, targeted killings, rape and other forms of sexual violence, including sexual harassment and sexual abuse of minors, as well as harassment and detention of women human rights defenders;

(b) Harmful practices, including child and forced marriage and female genital mutilation/cutting, and their adverse effects on the full enjoyment by women and girls of their fundamental rights;

(c) Violations of the right of women to health, including sexual and reproductive health, and reproductive rights as stipulated in the Programme of

Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and discrimination against women in access to health care;

(d) The persistence of gender stereotypes, including in laws, policies and practices;

(e) The continued existence of legislation and/or practices in many areas that discriminated against women or had the effect of discriminating against women, implementation of existing laws aimed at protecting and promoting the human rights of women that was ineffective or lacking, and lack of such laws, notwithstanding States' international obligations and commitments;

(f) Discrimination and violence against vulnerable and marginalized groups of women and girls;

(g) Persisting impunity and abuse of power, including where discrimination and violence against women, including sexual violence, were perpetrated or condoned by law enforcement personnel;

(h) The failure by States to exercise due diligence to prevent all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls and adequately investigate and prosecute such crimes, punish perpetrators and provide protection and assistance to victims and avoid their revictimization.

9. The Working Group expressed appreciation for the cooperation extended by the Governments that had submitted replies or clarifying observations with regard to the communications received, recognizing their importance. Expressing concern about the continuing gap between the number of communications and the number of replies received, the Working Group called upon all Governments that had not done so to make such submissions in the future. The Working Group considered such cooperation essential for it to discharge its duties effectively. From the replies received, the Working Group was encouraged to note that some Governments had carried out investigations into the allegations made, explained their positions or taken measures, including improving the enforcement of existing legislation, introducing programmes and services to better protect and assist women, including women victims of violence, prosecuting and punishing perpetrators of violence and making efforts to guarantee the full enjoyment of human rights by women, in accordance with relevant international standards.

Chapter V

Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

125. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 14th meeting on 24 March. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Letter dated 8 December 2015 from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2016/11);

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the contribution by the Commission on the Status of Women to the work of the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2016/12).

126. At the same meeting, upon the proposal of the Chair, the Commission took note of the documents (see chap. I, sect. D, decision 60/101).

Chapter VI

Provisional agenda for the sixty-first session of the Commission

127. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 15th meeting, on 24 March. It had before it the provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-first session of the Commission (E/CN.6/2016/L.1).

128. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the provisional agenda and documentation for its sixty-first session and recommended them to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. C).

Chapter VII

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixtieth session

129. At the 15th meeting, on 24 March, the Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur, Šejla Đurbuzović (Bosnia and Herzegovina), introduced the draft report of the Commission on its sixtieth session, as contained in document E/CN.6/2016/L.2.

130. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report on its sixtieth session and entrusted the Rapporteur with its finalization.

Chapter VIII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

131. The Commission on the Status of Women held its sixtieth session at United Nations Headquarters on 20 March 2015 and from 14 to 24 March 2016. The Commission held 15 meetings (1st to 15th).

B. Attendance

132. The session was attended by representatives of 45 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-Member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended.

C. Election of Officers

133. The following officers were elected at the 1st and 2nd meetings of the sixtieth session, on 20 March 2015 and 14 March 2016, to serve on the Bureau of the Commission at its sixtieth session:

Chair:
Antonio de Aguiar Patriota (Brazil)

Vice-Chairs:
Fatmaalzahraa Hassan Abdelaziz Abdelkawy (Egypt)
Jun Saito (Japan)
Andreas Glossner (Germany)

Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur:
Šejla Đurbuzović (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

D. Agenda and organization of work

134. At its 2nd meeting, on 14 March 2016, the Commission adopted its agenda as contained in document E/CN.6/2016/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":
   (a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:
      (i) Priority theme: women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development;

(ii) Review theme: the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls;

(b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;

(c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.

4. Communications concerning the status of women.

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.

6. Provisional agenda for the sixty-first session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixtieth session.

135. At the same meeting, the Commission approved its organization of work, as contained in document E/CN.6/2016/1/Add.1.

E. Documentation

136. The list of documents before the Commission at its sixtieth session is available from www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw60-2016/official-documents.

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